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Letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, and to say that in reference to the letter of Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Council, contained in document S/2000/381 of 4 May 2000, the Contact Group would like to endorse the call for a debate regarding contact between those indicted by the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and representatives of the United Nations, in particular from the Security Council. The OIC Contact Group has already, on several occasions, expressed its encouragement for more action in taking into custody those indicted by the ICTY and exerting further Security Council pressure on those who systematically fail to cooperate. It has noted, however, that the results are still only partially satisfactory.

Recent arrests of indicted persons have been shown successful, rather than to the contrary, in promoting peace and reconciliation. Most countries and entities have provided sincere cooperation. The Contact Group felt, however, that cooperation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is still awaited. In situations such as this, any actions or meetings that would somehow give comfort to this lack of cooperation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be avoided. In this context, a dialogue regarding appropriate standards of interaction is welcome and necessary in the realm of the Security Council.

Under the agenda item on the report of Mr. Wolfgang Petritsch, the High Representative for the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the issue of the decision of the Security Council not to allow any other country, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the Security Council members to speak during the consideration of the report on 9 May 2000, was discussed by the Contact Group. It was felt that the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the delegation of the country that was on the agenda of the Security Council, and as the delegation that comprises all three constituent nations and, most of all, consistent with the concept of ownership, should have been given the right to speak. The Contact Group expresses the hope that the Security Council will consider the proposition in its future deliberations on this issue.

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I shall be grateful if this communication is distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina